

WASTE MANAGEMENT: OVERVIEW OF THE PACIFIC ISSUES

DAVID HAYNES



Domestic Solid Waste

Managed using a regional strategy complimented by national strategies with a priority on 3Rs and return:

- a. Separation of wastes
- b. Backyard composting of vegetable and food scraps
- c. Recycling of glass, plastic, aluminium and paper

Waste mass is minimised and collection costs reduced



Hazardous Wastes (and pollutants)



A major regional issue, regionally co-ordinated with local action:

- Disposal of used oil (water supply)
- Marine plastic litter (pesticides)
- Pesticides and contaminated sites
- Asbestos in building materials is a legacy historical waste
- E-waste is an emerging regional problem
- Medical waste including expired pharmaceuticals are a major problem



Waste Disposal Methods

- Composting of organic waste
- Landfill (for intractable domestic garbage and asbestos)
- Semi-aerobic landfills are generally suitable for the Pacific
- Export for recycling (E-waste, plastic, glass, metals, uLABs, used oil)
- High temperature incineration (medical wastes, $>1200^{\circ}\text{C}$)



Waste Disposal Financial Issues

- Economies of scale in the Pacific
- User pays system
- Advanced recycling fee
- Needs to be backed by legislation and regulation

Waste Legislation and Regulation



BASEL CONVENTION

*the world environmental
agreement on wastes*



- Domestic: local acts and legislation to protect the environment and community health and ensure user pays system operates
- Basel and Waigani Conventions: to enable safe management of hazardous waste
- Stockholm Convention: To phase out production of potentially hazardous waste
- Local enforcement of Act and Regulations: critical and often overlooked



Community Waste Management

- Awareness and responsibility
- Waste Reduction
- Waste Recycling
- User pays

Best Practice Pacific Management



- Regional assessment (data collation)
- Interventions prioritized on a regional basis at the national level
- Best practice management interventions including stockpile removal
- Involvement of the private sector where possible
- Training and PPE
- Policy and legislation support
- Infrastructure sustainability (operating expenses, maintenance and replacement)



Thanks For Listening!

GOING TROPPO CONSULTING

DAVID HAYNES

goingtroppo@y7mail.com

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